armrests **60***c* which are used in the second configuration of the passenger bench seat **10** have a smaller width than the central armrest **60***b* which is used in the first configuration of the passenger bench seat **10**, in which the latter is occupied by only two passengers.

[0052] In the third configuration of the passenger bench seat **10**, on the other hand, the armrest system **58** comprises a third number of armrests **60***a*, namely two armrests **60***a*. In particular, in the third configuration of the passenger bench seat **10**, in which the passenger bench seat is intended for occupation by four persons, the armrest system **58** has only the two outer armrests **60***a* which are rigidly connected to the carrier pedestal **20**.

[0053] Finally, the armrest system **58** comprises three recesses **62***a*, **62***b* which are constructed in the backrest **12** of the passenger bench seat **10**. In the second and third configurations of the passenger bench seat **10**, the recess **62***a* serves to receive the central armrest **60***b* which is used only in the first configuration of the passenger bench seat **10**. In the first and fourth configurations of the passenger bench seat **10**, on the other hand, the two recesses **62***b* serve to receive the two central armrests **60***c* which are used only in the second configuration of the passenger bench seat **10** when the latter is occupied by three passengers. Each of the recesses **62***a*, **62***b* is dimensioned in such a way that it is capable of receiving the corresponding armrest **60***b*, **60***c* so completely that a surface of the armrest **60***b*, **60***c* which faces towards the seating surface **16** of the seat element **14** when the armrest **60***b*, **60***c* is in a usable condition, is aligned flush with the backrest surface **18** of the backrest **12** when the armrest **60***b*, **60***c* is in a condition in which it is received in the recess **62***a*, **62***b*.

[0054] Finally, the backrest **12** of the passenger bench seat **10** may be provided with a stiffened structure **64** in the region of an edge that faces away from the seat element **14**. The backrest **12** or the stiffening structure **64** may then be used by a passenger for the purpose of supporting himself when sitting down on the passenger bench seat **10** or when getting up from the latter.

[0055] For the purpose of re-configuring the passenger bench seat **10**, it is merely necessary to adapt the number and positions of the seatbelts **34** belonging to the seatbelt system **32** to the desired new configuration of the passenger bench seat **10**. For this purpose, the second seatbelt-retaining elements **48** of seatbelts **34** which are no longer needed in the desired new configuration of the passenger bench seat **10** are detached from the corresponding first seatbelt-retaining elements **36**. Furthermore, the first seatbelt-retaining elements **36** which are still connected to the second seatbelt-retaining elements **48** which are needed, even in the desired new configuration of the passenger bench seat **10**, are displaced to the desired position along the fastening rail **30** and locked at that point. As an alternative to this, the second seatbelt-retaining elements **48** of seatbelts **34** which are additionally needed in the desired new configuration of the passenger bench seat **10** may be connected to first seatbelt-retaining elements **36** which have been suitably positioned beforehand.

[0056] While at least one exemplary embodiment of the present invention(s) is disclosed herein, it should be understood that modifications, substitutions and alternatives may be apparent to one of ordinary skill in the art and can be made without departing from the scope of this disclosure. This disclosure is intended to cover any adaptations or variations of the exemplary embodiment(s). In addition, in this disclosure, the terms "comprise" or "comprising" do not exclude other elements or steps, the terms "a" or "one" do not exclude a plural number, and the term "or" means either or both. Furthermore, characteristics or steps which have been described may also be used in combination with other characteristics or steps and in any order unless the disclosure or context suggests otherwise. This disclosure hereby incorporates by reference the complete disclosure of any patent or application from which it claims benefit or priority.

1. A passenger bench seat, comprising:
a backrest;
a seat element;
a fastening rail which extends substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the seat element in a region of an edge of the seat element that faces towards the backrest; and
a seatbelt system which comprises, in a first configuration of the passenger bench seat, a first number of seatbelts which are detachably fastened to the fastening rail in first positions which are adapted to the first configuration of the passenger bench seat, and which seatbelt system comprises, in a second configuration of the passenger bench seat, a second number of seatbelts which are detachably fastened to the fastening rail in second positions which are adapted to the second configuration of the passenger bench seat.

2. The passenger bench seat according to claim **1**,
wherein the seatbelt system comprises, in a third configuration of the passenger bench seat, a third number of seatbelts which are detachably fastened to the fastening rail in third positions which are adapted to the third configuration of the passenger bench seat.

3. The passenger bench seat according to claim **1**,
wherein the seat element has a continuous seating surface.

4. The passenger bench seat according to claim **1**,
wherein the backrest has a continuous backrest surface.

5. The passenger bench seat according to claim **1**,
wherein there is provided, on the fastening rail, a plurality of first seatbelt-retaining elements which are arranged in a manner distributed along the fastening rail, each first seatbelt-retaining element being detachably connectable to a second seatbelt-retaining element provided on a seatbelt of the seatbelt system.

6. The passenger bench seat according to claim **5**,
wherein at least one first seatbelt-retaining element is displaceable along the fastening rail and lockable in various positions along the fastening rail.

7. The passenger bench seat according to claim **5**,
wherein at least one first seatbelt-retaining element comprises a fastening section which extends round a periphery of the fastening rail, and a connecting section, which extends from the fastening section, for connecting the first seatbelt-retaining element to a second seatbelt-retaining element.

8. The passenger bench seat according to claim **7**,
wherein the connecting section comprises a first connecting plate, a second connecting plate which extends substantially parallel to the first connecting plate and a connecting shaft which extends, substantially perpendicularly to the first and second connecting plates, between the first and the second connecting plate.

9. The passenger bench seat according to claim **5**,
wherein at least one second seatbelt-retaining element comprises a connecting snap-hook with a snap-hook